

Hawaiian Gazette

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The letter of His Excellency President Harrison, in our official column, in reply to that of His Majesty King Kalakaua, written on learning of the disaster to the American naval fleet at Samoa caused by the hurricane of March 16, is a courteous acknowledgement of that spontaneous outburst of sympathy felt not only by the King but by all his people—like honorable to him and to them, as members of the universal brotherhood of man.

A private letter from Mr. E. P. Adams, of Boston, Mass., says that the position of American Minister Resident at Honolulu has been offered to Mr. Charles E. Perkins, of Hartford, Conn., and declined by him. Mr. Perkins is an uncle by marriage of Mrs. S. B. Dole of this city, and a prominent and successful lawyer. The fact that the office has been offered to him would indicate that the President intends to select a gentleman of well-known ability and fitness to represent the American nation at Hawaii.

The details of the Pennsylvania horrors overshadow in destruction of human life anything that has occurred for many years. A similar disaster from similar causes took place some years ago in Massachusetts, but on a much smaller scale. It would seem as though legislation was necessary to place the construction and care of large reservoirs under some system of surveillance such as has never yet been established. It is said that there are other places in the United States equally exposed to an avalanche of water as was the city of Johnstown, where the lives of from eight to ten thousands and persons have been destroyed.

FUTURE INTER-ISLAND SERVICE.

It will probably not be a great while before the increasing trade to the windward will demand regular tri-weekly steam communication with Honolulu. That would mean fast passenger and light freight steamers to leave Honolulu every alternate day, drop mails and passengers at intermediate landings, reach Hilo the same day and return after loading. The vessels thus employed need not be of large tonnage, but they would have to be of great speed—capable of making fifteen or sixteen miles an hour.

These thoughts occur to us on reading an account of a launch on the Clyde, of a vessel built for special passenger service on Lake Ontario. The following is a brief account of the vessel, copied from one of our American exchanges:

She is a steel twin-screw steamer, specially designed and built to the order of the Hamilton, Ontario, Steamboat Company, for passenger service on Lake Ontario, and specially between Hamilton and Toronto, it being intended from the high rate of speed, promised by the builders to make two runs each day during the season between these important towns. The necessity of passing through a series of canals in order to reach her destination limited the length of the steamer to 185 feet overall. Her breadth at main deck is 30 feet, and at waterline 25 feet; depth moulded to main deck, 15 feet; and gross tonnage about 500 tons. The general arrangements of the vessel are of the American type, embracing main and promenade decks the whole length of the vessel, with a permanent wood awning above all, extending from the foremast to the stern. The hull, of Siemens-Martin steel, has fine lines, more resembling those of a yacht than a merchant vessel. Passenger accommodation is being the essential requirement, the whole of the decks and deck-houses are devoted to this, the dining saloon being placed on the lower deck at after end, and easily accessible by a wide, handsome stairway. The upper saloon and stairway on main deck are neatly finished in finest Spanish mahogany and the ceiling richly decorated, a handsome piano being also provided, and all metal fittings being silver plated. Aft of this saloon a roomy and beautifully furnished apartment is provided for ladies. The promenade deck above is furnished with luxurious seats, and here excursionists have also ample room for promenading. The electric light is fitted throughout the vessel, affording a brilliant light when darkness has set in, and enabling passengers to enjoy the evening trip, which are looked upon as a special feature in the American Lake service. The machinery, consists of triple expansion engines of the most improved type. There are one hundred lights throughout the vessel, and the fittings in the saloon are of a chaste design.

A modification of the above type of vessel would be very suitable for Hawaiian waters; and the necessity of an innovation of the kind above suggested, is fast drifting into the "must be" stage.

KAMEHAMEHA DAY.

June 11th was such a universally kept holiday by the residents of Honolulu, that the event had a peculiar significance in regard to the essentials of strictly kept holidays in the Hawaiian Islands. Kamehameha Day is a native Hawaiian holiday, and of itself may not embody much general sentiment; but it is, in consequence of being purely Hawaiian, a day on which all foreigners can join without scruple to make the holiday universally kept. The American, the Briton, the German, the Frenchman, the Scandinavian, the Portuguese and even the Asiatic, may join hands on that day and hold high carnival without any reminder that he is "not of that ilk." On this common ground all nationalities meet, and on this Hawaiian holiday all men desire to honor the land of their adoption. Nothing could bear out this general view of the matter more clearly than the close manner in which the national holiday was kept this year. We did not observe a single place of business open, except those in the Chinese quarter, the saloons, and the places that are usually open on Sunday; and the general quiet that reigned, was more still than is often the case on the Sabbath.

We would conclude from the above facts that the recreation enjoyed was universally diffused, and that employers and employees will now return to work with renewed vigor for the several duties in which they may be engaged.

TAVERNIER'S PICTURES.

Artists and authors who have been specially gifted, are chiefly remembered and known by their works; and especially is this the case after the artist or author has passed away to the other shore. The late Jules Tavernier proved himself to be one of those gifted artists whose specialities must remain lasting monuments to the artistic gifts which he undoubtedly had for transferring vivid scenes to canvas, and rendering them charming to the eye and truthful in every detail. The awe-inspiring and wild scenes of the world were his favorite subjects, and this desire for the romantic and picturesque brought him to the Hawaiian Islands where he delighted to view and sketch the ever changing volcanic scenery of Hawaii. His pictures of the volcano of Kilauea are the best ever painted of those glowing scenes, and these paintings are now increasing very rapidly in value since the artistic hand of Jules Tavernier ceased to move. A picture by this artist entitled "Waiting for Montezuma," was lately purchased for \$3,000 by Irving & Scott of the Union Iron Works, San Francisco, and it has been considered as Tavernier's masterpiece; but Jules himself thought that another painting, the last he ever did and which he finished shortly before his death, excelled all his former efforts. This celebrated painting is entitled "Sunset in Wyoming," and a finer scene of Indian wild-life on the plains, can hardly be imagined. The groups of Indians with their camp-fires and wigwags are true and exact in every detail. The blaze of the buffalo-chip fires seems alive, and one might almost fancy that he could light a cigar at the apparent glow. There are several well-known landmarks in the view; and, altogether, this painting is of great value to those who can appreciate true art. "Sunset in Wyoming" by Tavernier would command a very high price in Europe where productions of high genius are fully appreciated; and it doubtless will be held by its present owner in Honolulu, at a figure somewhat resembling its true value as a work of art, and as a Hawaiian production—the picture having been painted from a sketch by the artist, aided by memory, and the work was done at the artist's late studio in Hilo, Hawaii. It is now on exhibition at the rooms of J. J. Williams, photographer, Fort street, and we understand that it would be sold at a sufficient price were offered. There is no doubt that the pictures of the late Jules Tavernier will increase in value, as his works represent a school of art that is not of a common kind; and the subjects are always interesting and valuable in proportion to the genius displayed. We would recommend connoisseurs in art to inspect the painting of "Sunset in Wyoming" now being exhibited in Mr. Williams' show room.

Prince Albert Victor of Wales, better known as "Collars and Cuffs," is the sprig of royalty likely to be sent to Canada.

OUR CLIMATE.

As an illustration of the suitability of the Hawaiian climate for outdoor labor and physical exercise, we may instance the baseball matches and horse racing sports that are now at their height, although it is midsummer and near the longest day of the year. Several of these games are being played each week, without any signs of fatigue on the part of the players, and unattended by the perspiration noticeable on the faces of those engaged in similar sports in the United States at this season. The Hawaiian Kingdom is within the tropics; but, the cooling influence of the northeast trade winds offsets the more direct effect of the sun's rays, and the heavy and sultry weather usual during midsummer in America is seldom experienced in any portion of our isolated islands.

For these reasons we have great reason to be thankful for our climate, and to regard it as one of the Hawaiian permanent and profitable resources which will assuredly be the mainspring of future prosperity; whether we regard it as a means of enjoyment and a promoter of health, or as a chief factor in the growth of such products as form the basis of our foreign trade.

If there is anything more than another that Hawaii nei can boast of, it is its glorious climate; and we feel as if we could parade its excellence before the world, and challenge the best favored portions of the globe to produce its equal for beauty, utility, health or recreation.

A POLITICAL LULL.

For some weeks back there has been a lull in the political atmosphere of this Kingdom; and the zeal manifested by the Government to push ahead public works of all kinds, within the limits drafted out by the last legislature, is giving general satisfaction to the people—even chronic grumblers are now silent, and the partisans are anxiously waiting for a change that may be more favorable to their political aspirations.

So long as the Government pursues the even tenor of its way, as at present is the case, and shows a steady determination to grapple with the task of carrying out the improvements for which appropriations have been made, and otherwise observing a uniformity of square dealing with the public, there will be little to complain of by those voters whose interests in the material prosperity of the Kingdom are greatest. Rome was not built in a day, neither can miracles of progress be expected from any Government; but the country must nevertheless be congratulated on the material progress made in the short time since the gentlemen now in power have held

the reins, as compared with former administrations.

It is not always the ablest men in a nation that are called to govern; but Hawaii nei is fortunate in having a fairly representative Government now, after years of misgovernment and misuse of the revenues of the country. The people do not wish to hazard a return to former conditions, and they see no reason for any change at present. At the same time, no person feels bound to uphold any particular government party, and were any shortcomings noticeable, or the Government policy radically wrong which could be beneficially remedied, the people themselves would be the first to point it out and suggest a remedy.

The ADVERTISER has been called a "government organ" by those who have a personal dislike to the present cabinet; but nothing could be farther from the truth, as no opinions or remarks that appear in the ADVERTISER are inspired, or even suggested, by any member of the Government or any official acting under it. We claim the right and have exercised the privilege of upholding the action of the Government when it is pursuing a correct line of policy; but whenever good cause exists for condemnation of its course of procedure, we would not be slow to express ourselves accordingly. There should be fair and unprejudiced criticism; but no kind of journalism can be lower than that which panders to the unreasonable ravings of malcontents, the tirades of partisan abuse, and the chronic grumblings of those who oppose all governments of which they do not form a part or by whom they are not in a pecuniary sense favored.

In a small nation, such as the Hawaiian Kingdom, a political bias enters largely into personal feeling in the affairs of every day life; and the present lull is all the more welcome on that account, although it might be too much to expect any lengthened continuance of it. "Sufficient for the day is the evil thereof," but it is to be hoped that future criticism will enter more largely into the region of facts and fairplay than has hitherto been the case.

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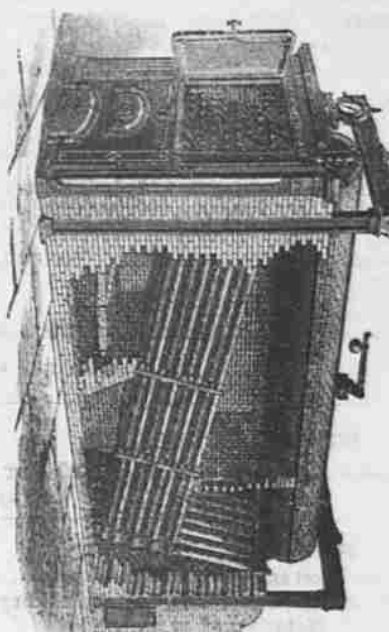
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